



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 07 February 2007

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- PJM Interconnection, the power grid operator for the mid-Atlantic states and parts of the Midwest, said Monday, February 5, that it had reached an all-time record for winter electricity use amid frigid weather on the East Coast. (See item [2](#))
- Reuters reports U.S. Customs and Border Protection inspectors found an undocumented Chinese immigrant wedged into a specially constructed compartment underneath the dashboard area of a car crossing from Mexico on Saturday, February 3. (See item [20](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *February 06, Energy Information Administration* — **Short-term energy outlook.** The unseasonably warm temperatures in the U.S. and throughout most of the northern hemisphere through early January reduced the demand for heating fuels, leading to an easing of petroleum and natural gas prices. Between mid-December 2006 and January 18, 2007, the spot price of West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil fell by about \$12 per barrel to a low of \$50.51 per barrel. The Henry Hub natural gas spot price fell from \$8.67 per thousand cubic feet (mcf) on December 1 to a low of \$5.56 per mcf on January 2. The turn to colder weather in the second half of January contributed to increasing crude oil and natural gas prices. In February 2007 the

WTI crude oil price is expected to average \$56.00 per barrel, and the Henry Hub natural gas price is projected to average \$7.35 per mcf. Total U.S. petroleum product consumption is projected to increase in 2007 and 2008 by 1.4 percent and 1.5 percent, respectively. Lower projected prices in 2007, combined with projections for moderate economic growth and the assumption of normal weather, are the primary reasons for increased growth in consumption. Source: <http://www.eia.doe.gov/steo>

2. *February 05, Associated Press* — **Power grid operator sets winter record amid cold snap.** The operator of the power grid for the mid-Atlantic and parts of the Midwest said Monday, February 5, it reached an all-time record for winter electricity use amid frigid weather on the East Coast. Valley Forge, PA-based PJM Interconnection, which operates the power grid in 13 states and Washington, DC, said it set an all-time record for winter electricity use on Monday morning, with demand rising above 112,500 megawatts. The previous record for winter use, set in December 2005, was 110,414 megawatts. PJM spokesperson Ray Dotter said PJM has sent out a cold weather alert to its members, calling on them to check to make sure they have adequate fuel, and making sure that their power plants are ready to run. But Dotter also said that power officials believe there are plenty of power plants available to meet demand. “We’re not scrounging for power,” Dotter said. “We have adequate generation with enough reserves to get us through.” Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/nation/20070205-1258-winterpower-record.html>
3. *February 05, Platts Energy Bulletin* — **Official says U.S. may consider creating ethanol reserve.** U.S. Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman on Monday, February 5, said the U.S. may consider creating an ethanol reserve, or product or crude storage sites outside of the Gulf Coast, as part of its expansion of its strategic stockpile. The Department of Energy fiscal 2008 budget request, presented to Congress Monday, includes \$168 million to begin the expansion of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve from its current capacity of 727 million barrels to 1 billion barrels. Source: <http://www.platts.com/Oil/News/6349495.xml?p=Oil/News&sub=Oil>
4. *February 05, Platts Energy Bulletin* — **El Paso pipeline unit signs deal to expand system for power plant.** In Texas, El Paso's Southern Natural Gas affiliate Monday, February 5, said it had reached a deal that would expand its system by up to 367,000 Mcf/d, or about 10 percent of its current 3.45 Bcf/d capacity. The Southern Natural Gas pipeline system runs from the Texas-Louisiana border and southern Louisiana into Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and Tennessee. Source: <http://www.platts.com/Natural%20Gas/News/6349623.xml?sub=Natural%20Gas&p=Natural%20Gas/News>
5. *February 05, Reuters* — **Alaska oil pipeline operator missing part of cleaning device.** The operator of the Trans Alaska Pipeline System was on the lookout Monday, February 5, for a piece of a cleaning device — called a pig — that mysteriously got dislodged somewhere inside the 800-mile oil pipeline in December. So far, the missing pig part has not affected operations on the 800,000 barrel-per-day pipeline. A 20-inch diameter ring fell off the plug-like pig device somewhere in the 800 miles of the pipeline, which is 48 inches in diameter. Both Alyeska and agencies that regulate the pipeline hope to find the missing ring before it does any internal damage, officials said. No damage has yet been detected, officials said.

Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/articleinvesting.aspx?view=CN&storyID=2007-02-06T010055Z_01_N05494804_RTRIDST_0_ALASKA-PIP_ELINE.XML&rpc=66&type=qcna

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

6. *February 06, Associated Press* — **Train hauling chemicals derails in West Virginia.** Train cars carrying chemicals and propane gas derailed early Tuesday, February 6, forcing authorities to close a highway and to urge all residents to evacuate their small West Virginia town as a precaution. No one was injured when 18 cars of the CSX Transportation Inc. freight train derailed near Handley around 4:45 a.m. EST, and there was no evidence that any of the overturned cars was leaking, authorities said. Ten of the derailed cars carried hazardous materials, said CSX spokesperson Gary Sease. Five contained propane gas, and four held a sodium hydroxide solution, which is like a drain cleaner. One contained chlorobenzene, which is commonly used for dry cleaning. The other car was empty, but had contained chlorine. The derailed cars carried sodium hydroxide and liquid petroleum gas, said Jessica Greathouse, a spokesperson with the state Department of Environmental Protection. Residents were told to take shelter in a school in nearby Pratt, about two miles from the site, then were moved again to a different school six miles away. State Route 61 was also closed as a precaution.

Source: http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/T/TRAIN_DERAILMENT?SITE=WUSA&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

7. *February 06, WPVI-TV/DT Philadelphia* — **Chemical release prompts New Jersey school closure.** A school in New Jersey has been evacuated and students sent home for the day after a plume was released from a nearby refinery Tuesday, February 6. More than 700 students were sent home from Paulsboro High School because of a malfunction and plume containing hydrogen sulfide and sulfur dioxide that was released from the Valero refinery. The school is less than half a mile from the refinery, and several students were sickened by the smell. A statement from Valero says the refinery experienced operational difficulties with a sulfur recovery unit, apparently related to extreme cold temperatures. The problem led to a release of hydrogen sulfide for about 15 minutes, and a chemical reaction with the flare system generated sulfur dioxide.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?section=local&id=5007316>

8. *February 05, WMCTV (TN)* — **Crews battle gasoline leak at Valero Memphis Refinery.** The Memphis Fire Department responded to a storage tank leak Monday morning, February 5, at the Valero Memphis Refinery on Mallory Avenue. According to a Valero official, a gasoline storage tank developed a leak early Monday morning. Gas leaked from the tank into a dyke and onto the Valero property. The Memphis Fire Department set up foam barriers in to contain the leak. Riverport Road was closed between North Rivergate and Mallory Avenue while crews worked to contain the leak. The gas leak was not considered an environmental problem because it was located in a containment area.

Source: http://www.wmcstations.com/Global/story.asp?S=6038229&nav=4X_zR

9. *February 05, WSB-TV (GA)* — **Chemical smell forces evacuation.** An unexplained chemical smell forced the evacuation Monday afternoon, February 5, of a Cobb County, GA, office building. Some occupants of the building at 1600 Parkwood Circle complained of a bad smell and a burning sensation around 3 p.m. EST. The fire alarm was pulled, 911 was called and fire and Hazmat crews responded to the scene. At least one woman was seen being treated by paramedics at the scene. Officials say several hundred employees were evacuated from the six-story building and are being sent home for the day. Authorities found the chemical culprit in a 3rd floor lab trash can. Employees say they have conducted an experiment using the chemical many times before with no problems.

Source: <http://www.wsbtv.com/news/10935396/detail.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *February 06, Associated Press* — **U.S. firms vie for India contracts.** American aeronautic giants hope the new momentum in India-U.S. relations after a landmark civilian nuclear deal will help them win large contracts as New Delhi moves to spend billions of dollars modernizing its air force, officials said Monday, February 5. Executives from more than 50 U.S. companies are attending an air show this week in southern India, where aircraft-makers from around the world will exhibit their jets, explore partnerships with local firms and lobby Indian defense officials. The biennial air show in Bangalore, starting Wednesday, comes at a time when the Indian air force wants to buy 126 more fighter jets, and the government is increasingly easing rules on foreign and private investment in defense production. American aviation companies have sent their biggest delegation ever to India, Ron Somers, president of the U.S.-India Business Council, said on Monday. This is also the first time U.S. authorities have allowed such a large fleet of fighter jets to be displayed at an air show in this part of the world, Somers said.

Source: http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/business/articles/0_206biz-india0206.html

11. *February 05, Department of Defense* — **Warfighter support tops modernization spending in budget request.** President Bush's fiscal 2008 budget request seeks to pump more money into the development of future capabilities that will support America's warfighters. Strategic modernization of the force accounts for 38 percent, or \$176.8 billion, of the \$481.4 billion defense budget request the president submitted to Congress Monday, February 5. The budget request reflects an overall \$49 billion increase over fiscal 2007, and developing future capabilities accounts for 18 percent, or \$8.8 billion, of that increase. Within the strategic modernization arena, procurement accounts for roughly \$101.7 billion and research, development, testing and evaluation takes the rest, at about \$75.1 billion. The Navy takes the top spot for procurement requests, ringing in at \$38.7 billion. Its budget supports a 30-year shipbuilding plan that includes eight ships. The Marines are asking for nearly \$3 billion in procurement funds. This will include almost \$2.4 billion in weapons and combat vehicles. The Air Force is asking for \$33.8 billion. Its \$12.4 billion aircraft procurement request includes \$5 billion for combat aircraft and \$1 billion for airlift aircraft. The Army is asking for just more than \$24 billion in procurement dollars. About \$4 billion will also go toward aircraft purchases.

Source: <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/NewsArticle.aspx?ID=2934>

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Banking and Finance Sector

12. *February 06, CNET News* — **UK researchers devise smart-card hack.** Two Cambridge researchers have created a scenario in which hackers can bypass the latest bankcard security measures. Saar Drimer and Steven Murdoch, members of the Cambridge University Computer Laboratory, demonstrated last month how they could modify a supposedly tamper-proof chip-and-PIN payment terminal to play Tetris. They have now extended the hack to demonstrate how they can compromise the system by relaying card information between a genuine card and a fake one. Chip and PIN, a government-backed initiative introduced last year in England, is a security measure in which a customer must enter a four-digit code when they use a credit or debit card for face-to-face transactions. "Chip and PIN currently does not defend against this attack, despite assertions from the banking community that customers must be liable for frauds in which the PIN was used," the researchers said in an as-yet-unpublished paper. "When customers pay with a chip and PIN card, they have no choice but to trust the terminal when it displays the amount of the transaction. The terminal, however, could be replaced with a malicious one, without showing any outward traces," the researchers warned in their paper.
Prototype attack details: <http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/research/security/projects/banking/relay/>
Source: http://news.com.com/U.K.+researchers+devise+smart-card+hack/2100-7349_3-6156601.html?tag=nefd.top
13. *February 06, Press-Register (AL)* — **Pair charged with bank fraud.** At a time of growing worries about intricate identity theft schemes involving computers, two Foley, AL, residents stand accused of pulling off the feat using an old-fashioned crime of opportunity. Federal investigators say Somaud Koy and Michele Lannett Cox inadvertently received someone else's check card in the mail and began making purchases and automated teller machine withdrawals worth more than \$17,320. Koy and Cox have been charged with conspiracy to commit bank fraud with stolen mail. Both have been allowed to remain free pending trial. According to an affidavit filed in federal court by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Regions Bank mistakenly mailed a Visa check card and later the personal identification number to the Baldwin County 55 trailer home that Cox and Koy shared. The criminal complaint contended that the victim, Fred Stringer, had not lived there for about seven years. Mike Willis, the team leader of the Postal Inspection Service in Mobile, said the incident should serve as a cautionary tale about identity theft. It is not always the product of scheming computer whizzes plucking credit numbers and personal information out of cyberspace.
Source: <http://www.al.com/news/mobileregister/index.ssf?/base/news/1170757000117350.xml&coll=3>
14. *February 05, IDG News Service* — **Study: Users ignore bank security features.** Users of online banking sites tend to bypass critical clues that the integrity of those sites may have been compromised, according to the working draft of a study released on Sunday, February 4, by researchers at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The study, which will be formally released in May at the IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy in Oakland, CA, underscores how new technologies and warnings can't completely protect Internet users. For the first test, HTTPS indicators were removed from the address bar along with the lock that appears in the bottom right corner of Internet Explorer 6. Although the

absence of HTTPS indicators should be a warning, all 67 participants continued with their transactions, the study found. The researchers then conducted a test where the site–authentication image was removed along with the HTTPS indicators. Only two of 60 people chose not to log in when the image was removed. In the last test, researchers replaced a password–entry page with a warning page from Internet Explorer 7 Beta 3. The page advises of a problem with the security certificate of the chosen Website. Despite the warning, 30 of 57 users entered their passwords.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/02/05/HNbanksecuritystudy_1.html

15. *February 05, Department of the Treasury* — **Proposed Treasury budget for FY 2008.** The President's proposed budget for the Treasury in fiscal year (FY) 2008 reflects the Department's dedication to promoting economic opportunity, strengthening national security, and exercising fiscal discipline. The Treasury appropriations request for FY 2008 is \$12.1 billion, a 4.7 percent increase over the President's FY 2007 request of \$11.6 billion. The FY 2008 budget provides additional resources to support Treasury in its role as Chair of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), including administering the interagency CFIUS process. The Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence (TFI) plays an important role in helping to combat threats to the nation and the financial system of the United States. To support these efforts, Treasury requests a 23.8 percent increase for TFI relative to the FY 2007 request. Summary of Treasury's FY 2008 budget request:

<http://www.treas.gov/offices/management/budget/budgetinbrief/fy2008/>

Source: <http://www.treasury.gov/press/releases/hp246.htm>

16. *February 05, Websense Security Labs* — **Data Breach Alert: The New York Department of State.** Websense Security Labs has received reports that the New York Department of State's Website had posted private information by releasing commercial loan documents containing Social Security numbers. The protocol was HTTP, the type of data is N.P.I, and this is a GLBA regulated event.

Source: <http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=736>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

17. *February 06, USA TODAY* — **Bush administration proposal shifts aviation taxes from tickets.** The Bush administration unveiled plans on Monday, February 5, to increase taxes on business and private aircraft, a dramatic shift in how the government funds aviation that could reduce the portion that airline passengers pay. Airlines lobbied heavily for the change, arguing that the current tax on airline tickets unfairly penalizes passengers while the rapidly growing number of private and corporate jets don't pay their fair share. The airlines and federal transportation officials also say that the new fee is necessary to help pay for a massive overhaul of the air traffic system, which cannot handle expected growth. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is planning to spend billions of dollars in coming decades to switch from radar to satellite technology for guiding planes. The proposed increase in fuel taxes paid by non–airline aircraft faces opposition from business aviation and pilot groups, who charge that the government has manufactured a funding crisis to justify a new tax. Private aircraft and charter flights would not pay a user fee but would see taxes on fuel rise so that they pay an

equivalent share, FAA Administrator Marion Blakey said. Details will be released next week.
Source: <http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2007-02-06-bush-aviation-usa.htm>

18. *February 06, Miami Herald* — **Spirit Airlines to charge for second bag.** Starting Saturday, February 10, Spirit Airlines will penalize travelers checking a second suitcase by charging a \$10 fee for the second bag. Once known for its liberal baggage policies, the Fort Lauderdale, FL-based carrier will now have the strictest among U.S. airlines. The new rules allow just one free checked bag of 50 pounds. The second bag will be \$10 and a third will be \$100. Spirit spokesperson Rebecca Rivera said the new policy "is a great way to keep our fares low," and that's why the airline decided to do it.
Source: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/business/16635051.htm>

19. *February 06, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-442T: Passenger Rail Security: Federal Strategy and Enhanced Coordination Needed to Prioritize and Guide Security Efforts (Testimony).** The 2005 London subway bombings and 2006 rail attacks in Mumbai, India highlighted the vulnerability of passenger rail and other surface transportation systems to terrorist attack and demonstrated the need for greater focus on securing systems. This testimony is based primarily on the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) September passenger rail security report selected program updates obtained in January 2007. Specifically, addressees (1) the extent to which the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has assessed risks facing the U.S. passenger system and developed a strategy based on risk assessment for securing all modes of transportation, including passenger rail; (2) the actions that the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and other federal agencies have taken to enhance the security of the passenger rail system, improve federal coordination, and develop industry partnerships; and (3) security practices that domestic and selected foreign passenger operators have implemented to enhance security. We have previously recommended that TSA complete risk assessments, develop rail security standards based on best practices, and consider implementing practices used by foreign rail operators. DHS, Department of Transportation, and Amtrak generally agreed with these recommendations.
Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07442thigh.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-442T>

20. *February 06, Reuters* — **Border police nab migrant in car dashboard.** U.S. border inspectors found an undocumented Chinese immigrant wedged into the dashboard of a car crossing from Mexico, U.S. authorities said on Tuesday, February 6. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) said inspectors found the 40-year-old man crammed into the dash of a Mercury Sable mid-size car during a routine inspection at the Calexico port of entry in southern California on Saturday, February 3. "Inspectors referred the vehicle for secondary inspection after the driver gave inconsistent answers to their questions," Vince Bond, the CBP spokesperson in San Diego. "They discovered a specially constructed compartment underneath the dashboard area of the car and officers using a mirror could see part of a man's foot exposed," he added. Bond said inspectors ripped the dashboard open to release the unnamed Chinese. He was subsequently arrested along with the driver, a 53-year-old U.S. citizen. The discovery was the latest of a growing number of attempts to smuggle undocumented immigrants concealed in car seats, engine compartments, and even gas tanks in a bid to beat tighter border security on the southwest border.
Source: <http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=domestic>

21. *February 05, Houston Business Journal* — **Continental chooses Colgan Air to fly regional routes.** Continental Airlines Inc. has selected a new regional airline partner to operate as Continental Connection from the airline's New York hub at Newark Liberty International Airport. Colgan Air Inc., a subsidiary of Memphis, TN-based Pinnacle Airlines Corp., will operate 74-seat Bombardier Aerospace Q400 twin-turboprop aircraft on short and medium-distance routes from Liberty starting in early 2008. Houston-based Continental has entered into a 10-year capacity-purchase agreement with Pinnacle and will purchase 15 Q400 aircraft for the Continental Connection service. Colgan Air, which operates regionally as United Express, US Airways Express, and now Continental Connection, operates a fleet of 39 Saab 340 and 11 Beech 1900 turbo-prop aircraft.
Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/bizj/070205/1413131.html?.v=2>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

22. *February 05, Associated Press* — **FedEx offers new truck service in Canada.** FedEx Corp. announced Monday, February 5, it is offering a less-than-truckload (LTL) shipping service in Canada through the newly formed FedEx Freight Canada. The package shipper and owner of the world's largest cargo airline also noted the official beginning of FedEx National LTL, a long-haul service for customers with less-than-truckload shipments. The new services, part of the company's FedEx Freight division, were created through the acquisition last year of the former Watkins Motor Lines and Watkins Canada Express.
Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070205/fedex_trucking.html?.v=2

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Agriculture Sector

23. *February 05, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — **Proposal to add Mexican state to list of regions free of classical swine fever.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Monday, February 5, announced a proposal to amend its regulations for importing animals and animal products by adding the Mexican state of Nayarit to the list of regions considered free of classical swine fever (CSF). This proposal comes at the request of the Mexican Government and the state of Nayarit. APHIS conducted a risk evaluation that indicates the region is free of CSF. In addition to changing the CSF status of Nayarit, this proposal would also add Nayarit to the list of CSF-affected regions that must meet certain certification requirements to ensure their freedom from CSF in order to export live swine, pork and pork products to the United States. Although Nayarit is considered CSF free, the state is located adjacent to regions that are still considered infected. In order to export to the U.S., Nayarit would have to certify the products' origin, move and process pork products in CSF-free zones and require that all processing facilities be inspected by the government of Mexico. CSF, a highly contagious viral disease of swine, was eradicated from the U.S. in 1978.

Source: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2007/02/csfnyari t.shtml>

24. *February 05, KRDO (CO)* — **Colorado looks into bovine tuberculosis.** It's a possible new worry for Colorado ranchers, just beginning to recover from weeks of heavy snowfall. The state is now looking into a bovine tuberculosis (TB) case out of Douglas County. It was spurred by a bull that originated in Colorado testing positive for TB at a processing plant in San Antonio, TX. The investigation includes quarantining more than 600 animals while the tests are being conducted. This is the first link to bovine TB for the state in more than 30 years.

Source: <http://www.krdotv.com/story.cfm?nav=news&storyID=2264>

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Food Sector

25. *February 06, Capital Press (CA)* — **Strawberry industry holds food safety summit.**

California's strawberry industry will examine its food safety efforts Tuesday, February 6, in Monterey at a meeting of industry leaders, food safety experts and regulators. Hosted by the California Strawberry Commission, the California Strawberry Food Safety Summit will include speakers discussing the challenges and solutions of providing safe, high quality fruit to consumers. More than 200 growers and others are expected to attend. A trade show held in conjunction with the summit will feature more than a dozen exhibitors demonstrating food safety testing, monitoring and traceback solutions.

Source: <http://www.capitalpress.info/main.asp?SectionID=94&SubSectionID=801&ArticleID=30269&TM=12675.61>

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.

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Public Health Sector

26. *February 06, Agence France–Presse* — **Egyptian teenager dies of bird flu.** A teenage girl has become the fifth Egyptian to die of bird flu in six weeks, a health official has said. Nour Nadi, a 17-year-old from the province of Fayyum, 60 miles south of the capital, died Monday, February 5, of the H5N1 strain of avian influenza. The World Health Organization's (WHO) John Jabbour said the girl died of the normal strain of the virus rather than a new drug-resistant variety. Of the 20 people diagnosed with the virus since it was first detected in Egypt in 2006, eight have survived, but the mortality rate increased after the emergence of what the WHO said was a more virulent strain late last year. In January, the WHO announced that people had died of bird flu in the Nile Delta province of Gharbiya, north of Cairo, after the virus mutated into a strain resistant to the common Tamiflu treatment. Subsequent tests in the same and other areas have not shown the presence of the drug-resistant strain.

Source: <http://www.breitbart.com/news/2007/02/06/070206114504.hwr2fi 8w.html>

27. *February 06, Reuters* — **Two more Indonesians have bird flu, new Pakistan case.** Two more Indonesians were confirmed to have bird flu on Tuesday, February 6, and Pakistan reported its first case in a year after finding the virus in a small flock of chickens near the capital Islamabad. Concern has grown since the H5N1 virus flared again in Asia in recent months, spreading through poultry flocks in South Korea, Japan, Thailand and Vietnam. The H5N1 virus has spread into the Middle East, Africa and Europe since it reemerged in Asia in 2003 and outbreaks have now been detected in birds in around 50 countries. In Indonesia, which has the highest human bird flu death toll, the latest human case was a girl from an upscale Jakarta neighborhood who had caught a wild bird which died two days later, Joko Suyono of the health ministry's bird flu center said. The other was a West Java man who lived in an area where many poultry had died.

Source: http://in.today.reuters.com/News/newsArticle.aspx?type=worldNews&storyID=2007-02-06T183221Z_01_NOOTR_RTRJONC_0_India-286562-1.xml

28. *February 05, Government Health IT* — **CDC to realign BioSense to focus on most populous cities.** The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) plans to narrow the focus of its key disease surveillance system, BioSense. In the federal budget released Monday, February 5, the CDC requested \$57 million for BioSense in fiscal 2008, down \$200,000 from what Congress approved in 2007. The CDC said it will realign the program and narrow its scope to focus on public health preparedness in the most populous cities in the country. The CDC originally designed BioSense to automatically pull real-time disease diagnosis data from emergency rooms into a central CDC repository through secure Internet connections. The data would include information on medical complaints such as fevers or respiratory infections that might indicate an avian flu outbreak or a bioterrorism attack. In 2008, the CDC said it intends to focus BioSense on communicable infectious disease threats and intends to improve its ability to detect seasonal influenza.

Source: <http://www.govhealthit.com/article97564-02-05-07-Web>

29. *February 05, Agence France-Presse* — **Rift Valley fever spreads to Tanzania.** Rift Valley fever, which has swept across Kenya, has spread to neighboring Tanzania, killing two people, officials said. The deaths were reported in the northern Arusha region last week, raising fears of an outbreak, the area's regional commissioner Evans Balama said. The health ministry said the World Health Organization and government doctors had been deployed in the area to combat the disease. The fever has killed at least 162 people and infected hundreds in Kenya since it was first diagnosed in mid-December.

Rift Valley fever information: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/spb/mnpages/dispages/rvf.htm>

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070205/hl_afp/tanzaniahealthdi sease_070205184845;_ylt=AnCGmD3O5.DOFZkWTioUESJOrgF;_ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNIYwN5bmNhdA--

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Government Sector

30. *February 06, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-398T: Homeland Security: Management and Programmatic Challenges Facing the Department of Homeland**

Security (Testimony). The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) plays a key role in leading and coordinating—with stakeholders in the federal, state, local, and private sectors—the nation’s homeland security efforts. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has conducted numerous reviews of DHS management functions as well as programs including transportation and border security, immigration enforcement and service delivery, and disaster preparation and response. This testimony addresses: (1) why GAO designated DHS’s implementation and transformation as a high-risk area, (2) management challenges facing DHS, (3) programmatic challenges facing DHS, and (4) actions DHS should take to strengthen its implementation and transformation efforts. This testimony contains no recommendations. However, GAO has made numerous prior recommendations to DHS in reports addressing the issues identified in this statement. Although DHS generally concurred with these recommendations, it has not identified whether it has taken corrective actions to address most of the recommendations made.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07398thigh.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-398T>

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Emergency Services Sector

31. *February 05, NWI Times (Indiana)* — **Fewer dispatchers might mean faster response time, committee says.** Local police scanners in Northwest Indiana typically growl with the voices of more than 18 Lake County police, fire and ambulance dispatchers. Government reformers say emergency communications would be less confusing and costly if public safety responders spoke with one voice. Officials aligned with the Good Government Initiative, an effort to reduce duplication and increase efficiency in the public sector, hope to spend millions of dollars to build and staff a regional communications center and replace community-based radio dispatch units. The committee of public safety officials brought together by the initiative are pushing for the merger, arguing more efficient communication is paramount in a county where the confluence of major highways, rail systems and industry infrastructure make it one of the busiest economic corridors in the U.S. Although it would reduce the number of dispatchers employed across the county, the committee argues it would raise salaries and training standards. Source: <http://www.thetimesonline.com/articles/2007/02/05/news/lake-county/doceb5e0e7ee38d2aee86257279000ab711.txt>

32. *February 02, CNET News* — **Portable, trash-powered generator ready for deployment.** Scientists at Purdue University have developed a portable generator that uses trash as its primary fuel source. Called a tactical biorefinery, the device was designed at the behest of the U.S. Army, but researchers say the generators could also be used in civilian situations, such as emergencies that require portable generators. About the size of a small moving van, the diesel generator can process several types of refuse, including paper, plastic, styrofoam, cardboard, woodchips and food waste. The generator is also an environmentally friendly alternative to traditional diesel generators, they say. Using biomass as a fuel is less polluting than oil because plants absorb carbon dioxide, according to scientists at Indiana-based Purdue. Source: http://news.com.com/Portable%2C+trash-powered+generator+ready+for+deployment/2100-11395_3-6155753.html

Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

33. *February 06, VNUNet* — **Security experts intercept Zhelatin mutant.** Security experts at Kaspersky Lab have identified a new mutant of the Zhelatin e-mail worm. Zhelatin.o was identified by the company on Sunday, February 4, and is rated as a "moderate" risk. The worm spreads via e-mail as an infected attachment. The subject line, message body and attachment are variable. Zhelatin.o is a portable executable file packed with UPX. The worm copies itself to the hard disk and modifies the registry to ensure that it loads automatically on start up. It then harvests e-mail addresses from the hard disk and automatically sends itself via e-mail by directly connecting to the recipient's SMTP server. The malware also terminates a range of antivirus and firewall applications, and hides its own processes, files and registry changes using a kernel-mode rootkit.
Removal guidelines: <http://www.viruslist.com/en/viruses/encyclopedia?virusid=150767>
Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2174252/security-experts-intercept>

34. *February 05, InformationWeek* — **Gartner: Deploy Office 2007 file converters now.** Enterprises should gear up now for Microsoft Office 2007 even if they've decided not to upgrade, by equipping workers with tools to handle the suite's new document file formats, a Gartner analyst recommended. "Whether you adopt Office 2007 or not, your organization will be affected by the new document format it introduces, because you can't control the format in which users outside your organization will send documents to users within your organization," said Michael Silver in a research note posted to the Gartner Website. Silver also warned companies some workers might themselves install Office 2007 on company-owned systems — laptops, presumably — to muddy the format waters. Office 2007 introduced a new file native file format — Open XML — which the suite's Word, Excel, and PowerPoint applications save to by default. Microsoft-made converters should be deployed, advised Silver, so that Office 2000, Office XP, and Office 2003 applications are able to open and save the Open XML formats used by Office 2007.
Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=QHI4OQJ4YPTFGQSNLPSKH0CJUNN2JVN?articleID=197003380>

35. *February 05, InformationWeek* — **Apple releases Vista compatibility patch for iTunes, but problems remain.** Apple has released a patch designed to fix a compatibility problem between its iTunes music player software and Microsoft's new Windows Vista operating system. Apple's iTunes Repair Tool for Vista 1.0, posted to the computer maker's Website over the weekend, is designed to "repair permissions for important files required by iTunes to play your iTunes Store purchases," according to Apple. The patch, however, does not address what Apple says are more serious compatibility issues between iTunes, its iPod digital music player, and Windows Vista. Apple is warning iTunes and iPod customers to hold off upgrading their PCs to Microsoft's new operating system until it issues a more comprehensive fix.
Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=QHI4OQJ4YPTFGQSNLPSKH0CJUNN2JVN?articleID=197003224>

36.

February 05, Federal Computer Week — **Bush asks for three percent increase in IT spending.** The Bush Administration's fiscal 2008 budget proposal asks for a three percent increase to \$65 billion in information technology funding as departments set priorities and seek to offer better results from their services, according to the document released Monday, February 5. The number of major IT investments has decreased two percent, from 857 in fiscal 2007 to 840 in fiscal 2008. In fiscal 2006, there were 1,084 major IT investments. The budget chalks up the decrease to better capital planning and investments aligning with enterprise architectures. Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article97562-02-05-07-Web>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

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General Sector

37. February 05, Associated Press — **Tennessee man pleads guilty to possessing ricin, explosives.** A Nashville man pleaded guilty Monday, February 5, to federal charges of possessing the deadly poison ricin along with firearms silencers and explosives under a plea deal with prosecutors to spare himself from life in prison. Neither William Matthews nor the authorities explained why the 56-year-old had the poison. Matthews was charged after a tip from his estranged wife led police and federal agents to search his property May 31. They found the ricin in a sealed baby jar, two functional pipe bombs, five gun silencers, three blasting caps, and bomb-making materials. Matthews was already in a Davidson County jail serving a nine-month sentence for violating orders of protection taken out by his wife when he was charged with ricin possession. He has remained in custody since then. His guilty plea Monday calls for a prison term of seven years and three months when he is sentenced April 27. Source: http://www.courttv.com/news/2007/0205/matthews_ap.html

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